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TWO METRO REPORTERS BRAVE THE WILDS OF KING-SIZE BEDS, FLUFFY PILLOWS AND PINOT NOIR. DOES THIS MEAN THEY'VE LOST THEIR WILDERNESS CRED? PAGES 6 & 7

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NEWS 1

Athletics commission to approve MMA in province

Contact sports.
Governing body expected to be running by next summer

The province is setting up an athletics commission that will have the authority to sanction professional combative sports, including mixed martial arts.

The move comes after the House of Commons passed a bill in June legalizing contact sports such as MMA.

The legislation makes professional boxing and MMA contests legal in Canada when they have the authorization of a provincial athletics commission.

Only boxing was allowed under the old prize-fighting law, leaving combat sports, including taekwondo, karate and MMA, in legal limbo.

Rani Yahya, right, and Josh Clopton battle during their UFC 163 mixed martial arts featherweight bout in Rio de Janeiro on Aug. 3.
FELIPE DANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"A provincial athletics commission will help ensure the safety of everyone involved in professional combative sport competitions."
Sport Minister Kevin Doherty

Steps are underway to have the commission in Saskatchewan running by next summer.

The commission will be responsible for tracking competitors' fighting history and ensure safety protocols are enforced.

The Saskatchewan Martial Arts Association will sanction and oversee amateur combative sports including mixed martial arts, kickboxing, modified muay thai and full-contact karate.

The association said in a news release that it will immediately start sanctioning amateur combative sporting events.

"By regulating amateur competitions, we help eliminate unsanctioned fights that put athletes at risk," said association president Tim Oehler.

MMA is currently sanctioned at a provincial level in British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec, while it has been sanctioned on a municipal level within Alberta, New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

City bio-waste plant a Canadian first

What's believed to be Canada's first commercial facility for turning human waste into fertilizer has opened at Saskatoon's wastewater treatment plant.

The city has joined with a company that specializes in recovering phosphorus and nitrogen from a chemical that can clog pipes and cause millions of dollars in damage.

The material is converted into a slow-release fertilizer for use by growers across North America.

Jeff Jorgensen, general manager of Saskatoon's utility services, says the process is environmentally friendly.

He says removing the chemical will also improve flow through existing pipes.

The project cost $4.5 million and revenue from the fertilizer is to be used to offset operating costs shared by the city and the company Ostara.

The plant is expected to produce about 300 tonnes of fertilizer each year and has the capacity to produce up to 900 tonnes annually.

Mayor Don Atchison sees the facility as a huge benefit not only for city residents who no longer have to fear clogs shutting the plant down, but also for people in surrounding communities.

"It means that ... the people who are downstream from us (don't) have to worry about sewage being released in an emergency-type scenario," Atchison said Wednesday at the opening of the facility.

Atchison said it's also great to have a partnership with Ostara that puts Saskatoon on the environmental map.

"The best part is that we're No. 1 in Canada. We're the first ones to take this step.... I think it's important to let the public know that we are taking the environment very seriously." CJWW/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health

TB testing ramped up after mine worker's diagnosis

Health officials in Saskatchewan are increasing testing for tuberculosis after a worker at a uranium mine tested positive for the lung disease.

Saskatchewan TB Prevention and Control program officials say the person was working at a mine site operated by Cameco.

The Saskatoon Health Region, which manages the provincial TB program, did not disclose the gender of the person or age or where they worked.

It says the person was diagnosed last month and has been getting treatment.

The health region also says the TB program and Cameco have been working closely to identify employees who may have had close exposure in the workplace.

It says those employees are being notified and are being offered testing as well as access to supports.

The health region says the risk of TB transmission is considered low but depends on closeness and duration of contact with an active case.

People who breathe air containing the TB bacteria may become infected. People infected with TB bacteria don't necessarily have active TB, but they do have a 10 per cent risk, over their lifetime, of becoming ill with TB.

Symptoms of active TB include cough, fever, night sweats and unexplained weight loss.

Active TB disease is serious but usually curable with antibiotic drugs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grade 1. Victoria teacher gets suspended for 'politicizing' classroom

An elementary teacher in Victoria has received a five-day suspension for encouraging her students to write letters to the former education minister during last year's contract dispute.

Documents posted online by the Teacher Regulations Branch outline how Andrea Jane Skinner, a Grade 1 teacher at École Marigold School in Victoria, organized the letter-writing campaign as part of an anti-bullying lesson.

At the time, B.C. teachers were on the verge of striking over back-to-work legislation, which imposed a six-month cool-off period before sending them to arbitration.

"On Feb. 28, 2012, in an attempt to simulate an overcrowded classroom, Skinner invited the students to sit in close proximity to each other on a reduced number of carpet squares and stated that one of the aspects of the changes brought in by Minister of Education George Abbott through Bill 22 might be overcrowding in classrooms," the consent resolution agreement states.

Skinner then discussed writing a letter to Abbott and provided a template for students which read: "I go to École Marigold … I hope that you will talk to teachers and solve the problem like we do. We need to stop bullying! Please stop Bill 22!"

Twelve of Skinner's 14 students wrote letters, which were sent to the minister, and a local newspaper.

Abbot told the media he was "appalled to see a Grade 1 class politicized in this way."

In a subsequent meeting with the school district, Skinner acknowledged that she had made an error in judgment.

According to the Regulations Branch, she was suspended for five days without pay and made to write letters of apology to the parents of the children, Abbott and the district superintendent.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO IN VICTORIA

George Abbott said he was "appalled to see a Grade 1 class politicized" after a 2012 incident when he was the B.C. minister of education.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Residents safe despite toll on environment: Province

Lac-Mégantic. Environmental surveillance shows air, water quality returning to normal

This photo from last month shows wrecked oil tankers and debris from a runaway train that derailed and exploded in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. The provincial government says there is no sign yet of grave danger to human health after the rail accident. SURETE DU QUEBEC/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

The Quebec government says the quality of the air and water are returning to normal levels and there is no sign yet of grave danger to human health after the deadly rail accident last month that saw crude oil seep into the ground, spill into the river and burn in the air.

The limited release of information from the provincial environment ministry came one day after environmental groups released the results of a study showing a spike in carcinogenic chemicals and a concentration of arsenic in surface water around Lac-Mégantic that a laboratory examination showed was 28 times above Quebec's upper limit.

The environmental advocates accused Quebec's environment ministry of trying to hide the levels of contamination so as not to incite panic after the July 6 train derailment and explosion that killed 47 people and wiped out a swath of the historic downtown.

The provincial government, in reaction, released a few details of its environmental surveillance, which has been ongoing since the accident. It said that despite the 7.2 million litres of light crude oil that were spilled, the quality of the water, both in the lake and in the Chaudière River, are now "similar to their historic levels."

They also added there's no cause for worry about the drinking water or the long-term health of fish or animals.

There is, however, a risk that petroleum that has settled on the river banks and at the bottom of the waterway could break away from its resting spot with extreme agitation such as flooding or dramatic changes in water levels.

Air quality was said to have returned to normal levels within a week of the crash.

The contaminated soil may prove to be the biggest problem. There has been speculation that it could be years before the ground is fit for use and there are plans to shift the town's core to a new site so that the rebuilding can begin more rapidly.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Compensation demanded

CP Railway in Quebec gov't crosshairs

The Canadian Pacific Railway is now on the Quebec government's list of targets as it seeks to recover the cleanup costs from the Lac-Mégantic disaster. The big railway has been added to a legal notice issued by the province, which wants companies to pay for the water and soil cleanup.

CP was added to the list because, the government said, it was the main contractor responsible for the oil shipment from North Dakota to New Brunswick.

That railway then arranged to use a line belonging to a smaller company — the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, which has since filed for bankruptcy protection.

"Our duty is to do everything we can to ensure that the companies responsible for this accident might shoulder the costs related to the cleanup and decontamination," Environment Minister Yves-Francois Blanchet said in a statement Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A supporter of ousted Islamist president Mohammed Morsi shoots a gun toward police at a sit-in in Cairo on Wednesday. MANU BRABO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘God have mercy’: Hundreds die on Egypt’s bloodiest day

State of emergency. Running street battles sweep the country as supporters of ousted president battle security forces

The world looked on in shock Wednesday as searing violence engulfed Egypt.

Running street battles broke out in Cairo and other cities as a state of emergency was declared.

The white heat of anger flared when riot police backed by armoured vehicles, bulldozers and helicopters swept away two encampments of supporters of ousted president Mohammed Morsi.

And the death toll rose inexorably: At least 278 people were killed nationwide.

Canada called for calm while Egyptian-Canadians watched in horror from a distance.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird expressed deep concern.

Canada supports “a transparent democratic system that respects the voices of its citizens,” Baird said.

All day Wednesday, pictures and video images of the violence could be seen on the Facebook site Egyptian Canadians For Democracy.

One video posted on the page showed footage of body bags lined up on a sidewalk.

Another post read “God have mercy on Egypt.”

It was the deadliest day in Egypt since the 2011 revolution against Hosni Mubarak.

Meanwhile, Vice-President Mohamed ElBaradei, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, resigned in protest over the violence.

He said he was not prepared to be held responsible for “a single drop of blood.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman holding a stick encounters a member of the security forces. IMAD ABDUL RAHMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly work

A cameraman for British broadcaster Sky News and a Dubai-based newspaper reporter were killed during the violence in Egypt.

- **The cameraman.** Sky said Mick Deane, 61, was shot and wounded while covering the violent breakup of protest camps in Cairo. He was treated for his injuries but died soon after.
- **The tribute.** Sky’s news chief John Ryley said Deane was “the very best of cameramen, a brilliant journalist and an inspiring mentor to many.”
- **The reporter.** The Dubai journalist was Habiba Ahmed Abd Elaziz, 26, who was shot in a Cairo melee. “She was passionate about her work,” Gulf News deputy editor Mazhar Farooqui said.

A shocked world

The world reacted in shock as the death toll in Egypt mounted relentlessly.

- **In Canada.** NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar told an Ottawa news conference that the Harper government and others around the world should insist that Egypt tell its military to stop the crackdown.
- **In America.** Secretary of State John Kerry gave a stern warning to Egypt’s leaders, urging them to calm the situation. “This is a pivotal moment for all Egyptians,” Kerry said. “The path toward violence leads only to greater instability, economic disaster and suffering.”

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Tory rivals leap on audit to rebuke Senate, Harper

New Democrat MP Paul Dewar calls for an end to the Senate on Wednesday in Ottawa. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pam Wallin freefallin'.
Travel expenses used to attack PM's judgment, Senate's existence

With the Senate expense scandal burning ever brighter, the Conservative government's rivals wasted little time Wednesday making political hay out of a scathing audit of Sen. Pamela Wallin's travel claims.

The New Democrats amplified their long-standing call to abolish the Senate, while the Liberals accused Prime Minister Stephen Harper of showing poor judgment when he vouched for Wallin's expense claims this year.

"In terms of Sen. Wallin, I have looked at the numbers," Harper told the House of Commons in February. "Her travel costs are comparable to any parliamentarian travelling from that particular area of the country over that period of time."

The Prime Minister's Office said Harper was only talking about Wallin's overall travel costs, not her individual claims.

The Harper government has no choice but to abolish "this institution that was created before we had electricity," said the NDP's Paul Dewar, reprising a long-held party credo.

"It's not just about the claims and if they're legitimate. It's about, 'Is this body legitimate,' and we don't think it is," Dewar said.

Cut out the root

"I think most people understand that this is an institution that needs to be sent packing, period."
New Democrat MP Paul Dewar, on the Senate

On Tuesday, the Senate called in the RCMP after an audit identified a litany of dubious travel claims spanning nearly all of Wallin's career as a senator. The auditors flagged $121,348 in inappropriate expenses.

The Senate, meanwhile, disclosed Wednesday that the price tag for hiring accounting firm Deloitte to audit Wallin's expenses was $126,998 — more than the total Wallin is now required to pay back.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doctors Without Borders forced to abandon Somalia over attacks

Doctors Without Borders announced Wednesday that they are pulling out of Somalia after 22 years, saying that armed groups are killing and abducting aid workers.

In a scathing indictment of Somalia's leadership, the aid group accused civilian leaders of condoning and even supporting the attacks.

Some two dozen local journalists have been killed since the start of 2012. In June, a truck bomb and gunfire attack on the main UN compound in Mogadishu killed eight UN employees and five civilians.

Doctors Without Borders, known by its French initials MSF, said the pullout will cut off hundreds of thousands from aid. For example, in Mogadishu, MSF runs the only pediatric intensive-care unit, while in Jowhar, women will have nowhere to go for emergency Caesarean sections.

Doctors Without Borders says it provided more than 624,000 medical exams, admitted 41,000 patients to hospitals and cared for more than 30,000 malnourished children last year alone. FARAH ABDI WARSAMEH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The decision comes after the release of a Somali man convicted of killing two MSF staff. In 2011, a Somali employee of MSF who learned his contract would not be renewed shot and killed two workers at an MSF compound. Though the shooter was convicted and sentenced to 30 years, authorities released him after only three months, MSF said.

Since 1991, dozens of attacks resulted in the deaths of 16 Doctors Without Borders staff in Somalia. Two MSF employees who were held for almost two years were released last month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Official statement

A message of outrage and sorrow

In a blunt statement, MSF denounced "extreme attacks on its staff in an environment where armed groups and civilian leaders increasingly support, tolerate or condone the killing, assaulting and abducting of humanitarian aid workers."

"In choosing to kill, attack and abduct humanitarian aid workers, these armed groups, and the civilian authorities who tolerate their actions, have sealed the fate of countless lives," said Dr. Unni Karunakara of MSF.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WikiLeaks. Soldier sorry for biggest-ever U.S. leak

U.S. soldier Bradley Manning apologized Wednesday for hurting his country at his sentencing hearing in the WikiLeaks case, pleading with a military judge for a chance to become a productive citizen.

He addressed the court after testimony about his troubled childhood and the extreme psychological pressure that experts said he felt in the "hypermasculine" military because of his gender-identity disorder — his feeling he is a woman trapped in a man's body. One psychiatrist said Manning has symptoms of fetal alcohol syndrome and Asperger syndrome.

Manning's attorneys contend he showed clear signs of deteriorating mental health that should have precluded him from handling classified information in a war zone.

The soldier said that he understood what he was doing but did not believe that leaking a mountain of classified information would cause harm.

His tone was at odds with the statement he gave in February, when he condemned the U.S. military's "bloodlust."

The leaks included a video of a 2007 U.S. helicopter attack that killed civilians in Iraq, including a Reuters news photographer and his driver.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andrew MacDougall

Harper spokesman leaving with laugh

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's director of communications is stepping down to take a job in the U.K. with one of the world's largest communications firms, Publicis Groupe.

Andrew MacDougall's trademark humour was clearly intact in a letter circulated Wednesday within the Prime Minister's Office.

"To my team, thank you for letting me be your boss. On most days you made me look good, except when you screwed up and made yourselves look bad," he wrote.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

There is no definitive glamping experience, with accommodations ranging from simple tents to extravagant stays costing $10,000. From left: REO Rafting in B.C., Fireside Resort in Wyoming and Clayoquot Wilderness Resort in B.C. CONTRIBUTED

What on yurt is this?

Glamping. Like regular camping's cousin, but with more glitter

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

You're lying in your tent, a little thirsty.

If you throw on your boots and head to the pot of purified water by the fire pit — you're camping.

If you ring the bell on your bedside table and ask the butler for a wine spritzer — you're glamping.

Glamping — glamorous meets camping — is the kind of vacation that straddles two worlds: The rugged outdoors and keep-your-hands-clean comfort of home.

"The idea started when the British would go down to Africa for safaris and they would have their big luxurious canvas tents, pack a bed," said Ruben Martinez, co-founder of GlampingHub.com. "To the best of our knowledge, that's where the idea started and over the last few years the trend has grown."

Sometimes, the difference between camping and glamping is little: A canvas tent and a real bed, versus nylon and a bedroll. But most anything can be glamping if it's not a traditional house, hotel, RV or cabin and provides immediate access to nature.

"These places keep popping up," Martinez said. "They range from relatively simple tents, tree houses, yurts to the really extravagant."

How extravagant?

"Some of these places have butlers, they have wine service, fantastic views, king-sized bed — you name it," he said. "Some of these places can be pretty ridiculous."

One of Canada's most glamorous is the Clayoquot Wilderness Resort.

"We're in the heart of Clayoquot Sound in the middle of the UNESCO world biosphere," said Katherine MacRae, director of marketing for the resort. "We're 40 minutes by boat to the closest town and there's no road access."

The all-inclusive resort includes the seaplane trip from Vancouver, locally sourced five-course meals with wine pairings and activities.

"We have world-class salmon fishing out here, horseback riding is one of our big adventures," said MacRae, adding there's also a spa, hiking, skeet shooting, kayaking, archery, rock climbing and paintball.

MacRae says her resort was the original North American tented safari. An all-inclusive tent for two costs $9,500 for three nights.

Canada has its fair share of yurts, but glamorous camping is worldwide.

At the Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle in Thailand, you'll arrive riding an elephant to your tent, which is billed as "reminiscent of 19th-century adventure expeditions with handcrafted furniture, hardwood floors and traditional thatched roofs."

From there, you eat fine Thai dining, go to the spa, swim in one of the pools or go on an excursion.

Prices fluctuate, but three nights for two guests in January 2014 will cost more than $10,000 for the "superior" tent, more for the "deluxe."

Metro tries it out

Liz 'n' Liz go glamping

Last week, Metro writers and avid campers Liz Brown and Liz Beddall gave glamping a try with Long Point Eco-Adventures in St. Williams, Ont. Here's what they thought of the experience:

Liz Brown and Liz Beddall toast to the good life on the porch of their wilderness suite with Long Point Eco-Adventures in St. Williams, Ont. Aside from offering visitors luxury accommodations and on-site activities, the facility prides itself on being deeply eco-conscious. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Beddall: Well Liz, we went glamping and survived. Nay — thrived! When's the last time you returned from a wilderness excursion with thoroughly conditioned hair and a belly warm with Pinot Noir?

Brown: Never, Liz. But I've also never set up camp across the road from a winery — Burning Kiln Winery to be exact. But the best perk for me was a flush toilet inside the tent. No more hikes to the outdoor can for me!

Beddall: I felt the pièce de résistance of our stay was the king-sized bed we snoozed in after our Zodiac boat tour and astronomy lesson. The plump pillows were a slight step up from the toilet paper roll I once employed on a canoe trip to cushion my cranium against a bed of rocks.

Brown: What about the built-in shower? I had some doubts about scrubbing up in the open air, but the stream of steamy water on a cool morning was incredibly refreshing. But enough about the tent, what about the activities?

Beddall: Once we left our tent of wonders, the glamping experience seemingly ceased. Zip-lining high above the Long Point Bay World Biosphere is not, at least for me, a soothing experience. Having those options made me feel less like I was a traitor to the camping community. You?

Brown: Let's not kid ourselves. We're losing some roughing-it cred by waxing on about glamping. Saying we went zip-lining isn't going to redeem us.

Beddall: You're right. The likelihood of us being excommunicated from the backwoods brotherhood is high. But Liz, no one can fault us for accepting a pizza delivered directly to our tent, courtesy of local restaurant Surfside Pizza.

Brown: True. And it's not like hardcore campers come out of the bush looking forward to a homecoming meal of jerky and granola. So, what's the verdict? Are you a glamping convert?

Beddall: Liz, the call of the unvarnished wilderness will always grunt loudly in my ear, but I'll never forget the sweet, siren-song of the ever so decadent Eco-Adventures camp in St. Williams.

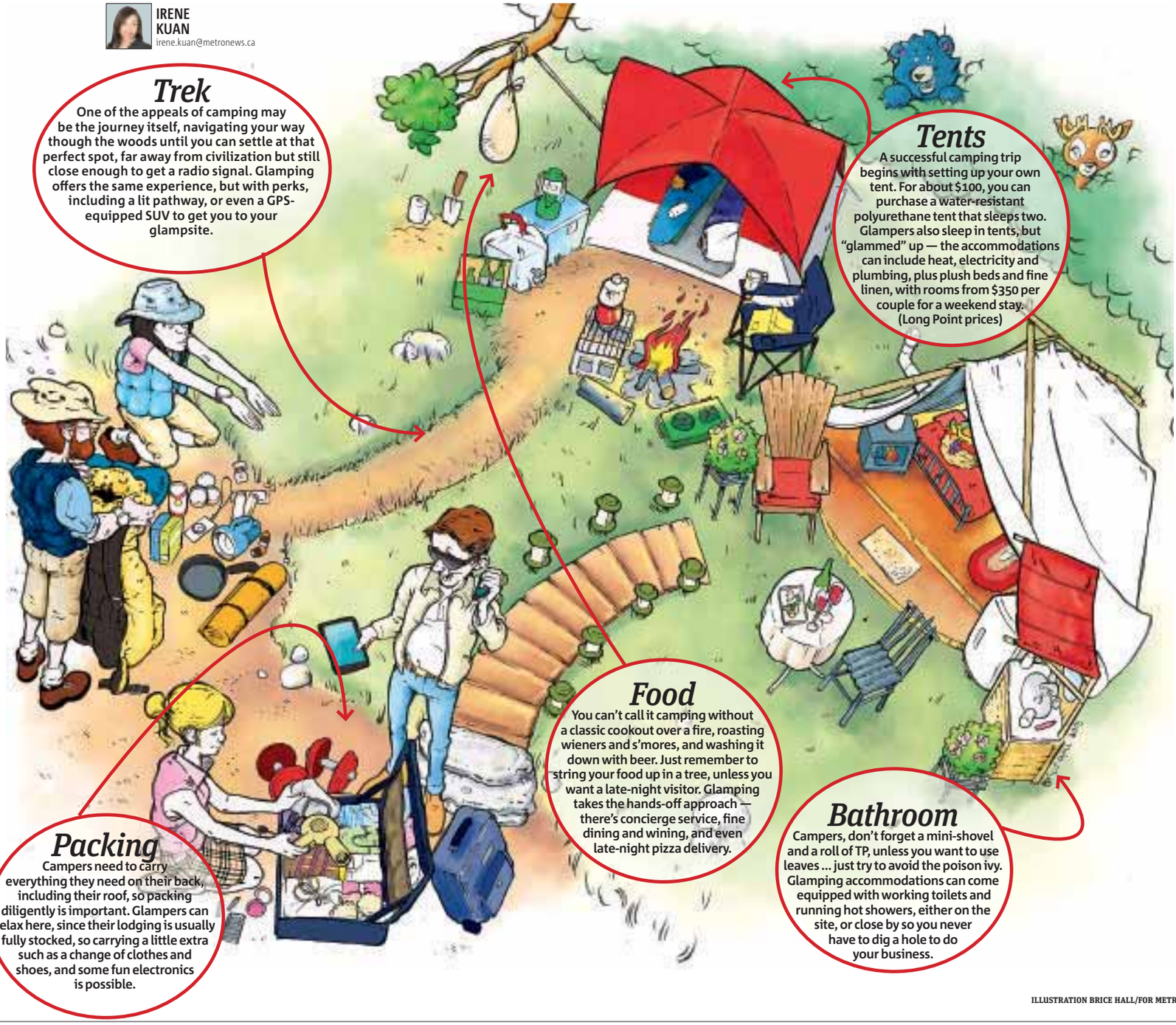
Exclusively online

Go to metronews.ca for more on glamping:

- See photos of the most glamorous glamping destinations in the world
- Click through an interactive, detailed version of the glamping graphic
- Follow Metro reporters' glamping adventure (in photos)

Glamping vs. camping

IRENE KUAN
irene.kuan@metronews.ca



Trek

One of the appeals of camping may be the journey itself, navigating your way though the woods until you can settle at that perfect spot, far away from civilization but still close enough to get a radio signal. Glamping offers the same experience, but with perks, including a lit pathway, or even a GPS-equipped SUV to get you to your glampsite.

Tents

A successful camping trip begins with setting up your own tent. For about $100, you can purchase a water-resistant polyurethane tent that sleeps two. Glampers also sleep in tents, but "glammed" up — the accommodations can include heat, electricity and plumbing, plus plush beds and fine linen, with rooms from $350 per couple for a weekend stay. (Long Point prices)

Food

You can't call it camping without a classic cookout over a fire, roasting wieners and s'mores, and washing it down with beer. Just remember to string your food up in a tree, unless you want a late-night visitor. Glamping takes the hands-off approach — there's concierge service, fine dining and wining, and even late-night pizza delivery.

Bathroom

Campers, don't forget a mini-shovel and a roll of TP, unless you want to use leaves ... just try to avoid the poison ivy. Glamping accommodations can come equipped with working toilets and running hot showers, either on the site, or close by so you never have to dig a hole to do your business.

Packing

Campers need to carry everything they need on their back, including their roof, so packing diligently is important. Glampers can relax here, since their lodging is usually fully stocked, so carrying a little extra such as a change of clothes and shoes, and some fun electronics is possible.

ILLUSTRATION BRICE HALL/FOR METRO

Oh Gadd: Silly glampers, heels are for cities

Glamping may seem like a good idea to some, but to an expert camper it's a "silly" idea.

Ben Gadd, naturalist, geologist and author of the Canadian Hiker's and Backpacker's Handbook, is an expert in helping ordinary people experience the wilderness.

He was a guide at Jasper National Park in Alberta for more than 30 years and glamping doesn't impress him at all.

"I think glamping sounds quite silly, but fun," said Gadd.

"It's as if you're taking the most extreme elements of city life, like high heels and glasses of wine, and you're taking that into the situation where we lived as hunter-gatherers.

"It seems to me almost a spoof. I couldn't take it seriously. I don't know how it would have some sort of benefit to you."

Asked why people from the cities go into the wilderness, Gadd says: "It's because, I think, that's where we come from.

"Our species grew up in the wilderness and, like any other organism, we search out the environment in which we're most likely to prosper.

"Any creature knows that instinctively."

If people want to try serious camping, the Alpine Club of Canada has a network of groups, events and mountain huts to help. Visit alpineclubofcanada.ca for information. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Ben Gadd CONTRIBUTED

Roommates set out to buy nothing for a year

Less is more.
'I realized these things don't make me any happier,' Calgary man says of the 'stuff' he has already accumulated

ROBSON FLETCHER
Metro in Calgary

Two Calgarians are taking the Buy Nothing Day concept and multiplying it by 365.

Roommates Geoff Szuszkiewicz and Julie Phillips set out on a Buy Nothing Year on Aug. 3, an undertaking they plan to continue until the same date in 2014, when Szuszkiewicz turns 31.

As part of this "life experiment," the pair has immediately given up spending money on household and personal items — including things like cleaning products and clothes — and they plan to eventually ramp it up to a point where they pay for nearly nothing.

"In three months we're going to discontinue purchasing of services — that means we're not going to be buying haircuts, eating out any more or paying for transportation," Szuszkiewicz explained.

They already have a head start on that phase, however: Phillips's car broke down and she opted to give the beater away rather than fix it. She now uses a bike as her main mode of transportation, while Szuszkiewicz has given up the bus and commutes to work on foot.

By the final month of the experiment, they aim to give up spending on groceries, relying instead on an at-home aquaponics system (built with donated or bartered materials) and supplementing their food stocks through trade.

They do plan to continue paying their power bill, however, and use their previously purchased electronics to document their journey online.

"We don't want to be these extremist hippies living without electricity," Phillips laughed.

If they make it all the way through the year — and Szuszkiewicz admits "there could be room for failure" — they plan to use some of the money they save to set up a grant program for others interested in taking on projects with similar philosophies.

That, and a little reward for themselves.

"We'd like to go on a trip to Thailand and get tattoos," he said.

Who needs it? And what does need even mean, anyway?

The pair got the idea after the June flood forced Julie Phillips to change her accommodation plans and move in with her friend Geoff Szuszkiewicz.

- Phillips said she had to get rid of about 80 per cent of her "stuff" in the process, forcing her to re-examine her definition of "necessity."
- To follow their journey online, visit buynothingyear.com.

Julie Phillips and Geoff Szuszkiewicz hold Pepper, whom they're "bunny-sitting" for a friend in exchange for wine. The pair expects bartering to figure prominently in their Buy Nothing Year. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Market Minute

DOLLAR 96.82¢ (+0.14¢)

TSX 12,639.30 (-2.89)

OIL $106.85 US (+2¢)

GOLD $1,333.40 US (+$12.90)

Natural gas: $3.34 US (+6¢)
Dow Jones: 15,337.66 (-113.35)

Recession. For some EU firms, recovery's already underway

Minube, a travel startup on the outskirts of Madrid, is doing something that many Spanish companies haven't thought about for years — it's hiring.

The company, which sells bookings as it helps travellers share their experiences using social media, has nearly doubled its headcount from 17 at the end of last year to 30. Business is booming as customers come in from across Europe — including some places hardest hit by Europe's economic crisis.

"We're finally starting to see a bigger growth curve in Spain, and the strong growth in Italy has been a surprise," Minube's co-founder, Pedro Jareno, said. "The improvements we are starting to see in the market are constant."

That brighter — or less gloomy — backdrop was confirmed in figures Wednesday, which showed that the longest-ever recession to afflict the eurozone came to an end in the second quarter of the year.

Eurostat, the European Union's statistics office, said the 17 EU countries that use the euro saw their collective economic output increase by 0.3 per cent in the April to June period from the previous quarter.

That's the first quarterly growth since the eurozone slipped into recession in the last three months of 2011. The ensuing recession of six quarters was the longest since the euro currency was launched in 1999. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Pearrow works in the Madrid office of Minube, an internet travel agency startup, on Tuesday. At Minube, something unusual is happening — they're hiring. PAUL WHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tech trouble. Thai villagers block Google Street View car

Internet giant Google's Street View project, which has raised privacy concerns in several countries, has ignited a minor uproar in northern Thailand where villagers suspected its cameras were surveying for an unwanted dam project.

Google's regional communications manager Taj Meadows said Wednesday that the company was aware of the incident in Sa-eab village in Phrae province, in which about 20 residents blocked a Google camera-equipped car. Google's project takes photos to accompany its Google Earth map program.

The Manager newspaper reported that the villagers took the vehicle's driver to a local office to quiz him, then to a temple where they made him swear on a statue of Buddha that he was not working for the dam project.

The Prachatai news website said the villagers released the driver and later apologized to him and to Google.

Sa-eab village, 615 kilometres north of Bangkok, is known for its long-running dam protests by villagers and environmental groups.

"(We) apologize to the official, to Google, as well as to the Thai people throughout the nation and to the citizens of the world," the villagers' representatives wrote.

They explained that they were "extremely worried and there had been so many repeated cases that convinced the villagers to believe someone was trying to survey the area in disguise."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Google camera is carried on a Florida beach. The Street View project caused a spat in Thailand when villagers thought the cameras were secretly surveying for a dam. VISIT FLORIDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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ROB FORD REALITY ROUNDUP

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

The Beaver Examiner brings you the latest fake news: **Alleged Drug Dealer in Photo Mortified to Appear with Rob Ford**

A 25-year-old man facing drug-trafficking charges who appears in a newly distributed photo with Toronto Mayor Rob Ford says he is "deeply embarrassed" by it. "I'd like to apologize to my family, gang, and to anyone else I might have offended," said the man, who spoke to The Beaver Examiner on condition of anonymity. "I pose for a lot of photos, and if I had known it was Rob Ford, I would have politely declined." The uproar recalls a controversy last year when Ford appeared in a photo with a white supremacist. The supremacist later apologized.

'Bizarre' Viral Video Shows Rob Ford Working at Some Sort of White-Collar Job

Saying they've "never seen anything like it," millions of Internet users have watched a new video that shows controversy-prone Rob Ford working away at some sort of bureaucratic job. Vancouver resident Rob Blumer says he has watched the video, Zoning Amendment SD-97, on YouTube a dozen times. "It's bizarre," Blumer said. "I clicked it waiting to see Ford say something crazy, but he just stands there, talking with other guys in suits. It looks like he's in, like, a meeting hall." Blumer said. Ford never swears, walks into anything or falls over despite the video's length of almost 11 minutes. "I don't know what it means," Blumer said. "Maybe it's performance art."

Stephen Harper Resigns After Doing Any One Thing Rob Ford Has Done

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has resigned in disgrace after doing any one thing that Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has done. Exact details are still sketchy, but it's believed Harper may have lied about a DUI conviction, used his staff for personal business, threatened a couple at a hockey game, been accused of smoking crack, or said cyclists who die have only themselves to blame. "Whatever it is that he did, this is an unprecedented controversy for Harper and I see no way for him to recover from it," said political scientist Martin Lye. "No politician can do any one thing Rob Ford has done and still be electable."

'Fiscal Record What's Important,' Doug Ford Says as he Chases Incoherent, Naked Rob Ford Through Shopping Centre

Coun. Doug Ford launched a spirited defence of his brother Rob Ford's record Friday while frantically searching for the mayor in a downtown shopping centre where he had last been seen running naked and repeatedly yelling "Woo!" Lashing out at assembled media, Doug Ford said that reporters were only focusing on Rob Ford because he had apparently set his clothes on fire before running around the blaze in a circle shouting "Let's party!" — forgetting that he had saved the city "more than a billion" dollars. "You can't attack us on our record, so you attack us just because he's over there skinny-dipping in the coin fountain." As he propped up his brother from the fountain, Doug Ford noted that his brother had retrieved 45 cents on behalf of taxpayers.

ZOOM

Signed, sealed, delivered

DAVID HECKER/GETTY IMAGES

Rescued seals make their way home

Tim Fetting, left, and Peter Lienau from the Seehundstation Norddeich release young seals on the beach of the islands of Juist on Wednesday near Norddeich, Germany. The Seehundstation Norddeich is a facility for raising young seals who were separated from their mothers due to storms, disease or human disturbance and who would otherwise have little chance of survival.

Volunteers collect about 90 young seals a year from the North Sea German coast and care for the pups until they weigh about 25 kilograms before releasing them back into the wild. Sponsors pay for the costs of caring for the seals and get to name them. GETTY IMAGES

A zookeeper feeds herring to young seals in the Seehundstation.
DAVID HECKER/GETTY IMAGES

Sorry kids, I got to go

- Four to 50 days is the length of time true seals (pictured) suckle their pups.
- This is because their feeding ground is usually far from shore, so after lactation the mother will dash, foraging to replenish depleted energy.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

A tragedy happened in Egypt Wednesday, and the situation there is unlikely to improve soon. If you want a closer look at what's happening, here are three Twitter handles worth following.

Supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi run from Egyptian security in Cairo on Wednesday.
MANU BRABO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andy Carvin (@acarvin):
National Public Radio's senior strategist is a peerless curator of news from around the world, with a particular shine for the Middle East and a talent for finding citizen images.

Samer Al-Atrush (@sameralAtrush):
A Cairo-based wire journalist who frequently treats his Twitter feed as a public display for his reporter's notebook, which can obviously contain grim stuff.

Heba Morayef (@hebamorayef):
The Egypt director for Human Rights Watch is on the ground in Cairo, where she regularly posts updates from field hospitals and protest sites.

Comments

RE: Ladies, If You've Ever Tried To Get Your Man To Care About Home Decor, Be Careful What You Wish For, published Aug. 13

This article did nothing but state the perfectly obvious: cohabitation means compromise. But the title reads like, "Ladies, make sure you don't get your man interested in decor, because you won't get your way."

I find the piece rather rude, and it's more of a blog update on Jessica's personal living situation than offering couples any practical or emotional advice of *how* to work out a compromise. Sorry that you went to all that trouble to force your partner's opinion out of him, only to find he disagrees with you.

Aeric posted to metronews.ca

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Volvo's technology detects cyclists and stops if needed. Is it the solution to cyclist fatalities?

@WilMcQueen: Lowering cyclist deaths can be achieved by cyclists not being self-righteous a—holes, weaving, red-light runners.

@benrankel: The only way to make driving really safe is to remove the most fallible element – the human driver.

@neanderstaal: Drivers paying attention is the real solution to cyclist (and pedestrian and motorist) fatalities.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

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SCENE

Accordionist stretches skills

Polka player. Jordan Rody fulfills a life-long dream when he takes the stage with Grammy-nominated band this week

BACKSTAGE PASS
Simon Hiatt
saskatoon@metronews.ca

Like many musically-minded youngsters, Jordan Rody grew up listening to the musicians he idolized, fantasizing of one day taking the stage with them.

The difference in Rody's case is that this weekend, that dream will come true when he takes the stage with the Western Senators.

"It's really cool how it's worked out, I've looked up to them for years, ever since I was little listening to their LPs," Rody said in a telephone interview from his home in Alberta.

"I never dreamed I would get to meet them let alone perform with them."

Another big difference between Rody and his contemporaries is his music of choice. He has grown up listening to polka albums and has spent the past five years teaching himself how to play the accordion.

His association with the instrument stretches back to when he was a baby and visited his grandfather, renowned accordionist Mike Kushneryk, in Prince Albert.

"My grandpa played for me in the playpen and when he first started I was terrified. But as he continued playing I warmed up to it, I have a picture of me reaching up for the accordion."

Kushneryk was one of the founding members of the Western Senators, a Grammy-nominated polka band based in Saskatchewan. And Rody will be carrying on the family legacy when he joins the band for two performances this weekend at the Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Festival.

Band leader Brian Sklar is impressed not only with Rody's playing skills but also his willingness to master an instrument that might not necessarily be seen as being as cool as a guitar or drums.

"As a guy who grew up in Prince Albert, carrying a violin case across the bridge and being chased by hockey players, I understand the pitfalls of being a musician and particularly playing something like an accordion, because the accordion is the butt of a lot of jokes," Sklar said in a telephone interview from his home in Regina.

But Rody says he has experienced nothing but positive responses from his peers for playing the instrument.

"I did a show at my high school and they just loved it. They thought it was the coolest thing ever and I even had some people asking for lessons, it was really neat how they took to it after they saw me play."

Rody says he loves polka because it "is happy music that is meant to get you dancing." But he also feels a responsibility to keep playing accordion, not only to his family but the genre itself.

"I'm just trying to do my part in keeping the accordion and polka music alive, playing wherever I can to expose the accordion to the younger generations."

Nineteen-year-old Jordan Rody will be performing with the Western Senators at the Northern Lights Bluegrass & Old Tyme Music Festival Aug. 16 and 17. CONTRIBUTED

If you go...

The eighth annual Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Festival runs Aug. 16 to 18 at Ness Creek near the Town of Big River. In addition to polka, it will feature bluegrass, gospel and other genres of music. For more information visitnorthernlightsbluegrass.ca.

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It took some persuading, but Oprah is baaaaaack!

The Butler. Winfrey talks about why she decided to do her first film since 1998 and why this role, with its intensity, was important for her

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News

Oprah Winfrey as Gloria Gaines and Forest Whitaker as Cecil Gaines star in The Butler. ANNE MARIE FOX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There was one major reason Oprah Winfrey returned to screen acting for her most prominent role since 1998's Beloved — and his name is Lee.

Winfrey worked with director/producer Lee Daniels behind the scenes of his breakout work, Precious, which she also executive produced. She was coerced in front of the camera for his fourth directorial work, Lee Daniels' The Butler, playing the wife of a man (Forest Whittaker) who works at the White House from the 1950s through the '80s.

"I wanted the opportunity to be in his hands, really," she says, adding he was relentless in pursuing her. "I was telling him, 'Lee, I got a network thing going on. But he wouldn't listen to me. He'd been stalking me for some time."

Of course, there was also the subject. The film spans the beginning of the civil rights movement and ends with Obama's election.

"I'm a historian of my own history — of African American history. I believe that when you know who you are, you have the ability to move forward not only with your own strength, but with the strength of your entire ancestry," Winfrey says.

While specifically about black culture — and in a way that doesn't portray it through white eyes, despite a Caucasian screenwriter (Danny Strong) — the film is also, she says, universal.

"You see the two of us at the bus station sending our son off to college. That's how every parents, regardless of race, regardless of economic background, feel when you have to let go of your son."

There's also her character: the long-suffering wife of a workaholic.

"I thought a lot about what it meant to be a woman in the '50s and '60s. All of us got a lot of fire inside us. What is it like to have that fire but have nothing to do with it? You can't just sit around watching Edge of Night all day long, make a sandwich, have a beer, tiptoe with the next-door neighbour," Winfrey explains.

"This gave me the opportunity to show the women of that era. Gloria, for me, is not just herself but a composite of the women of the era, who sacrificed herself to become the stabilizing force of her family."

In terms of race relations today, Winfrey doesn't feel like she has a side she shows white — or black — audiences.

"I feel I have made a living being myself. I've made a career out of my own authenticity. I don't have one face I present to the white world or to the black world. I talk to my dogs the same way I'm speaking right now."

But she understands that her being able to feel that way was heard-earned, by others.

"I am the daughter of a maid, and my grandmother was a maid, and her mother was a maid, and her mother was a slave," she says. "I feel validated by the war that the butler and his entire generation fought in their own way. And the fact that there's another generation of freedom writers and freedom fighters that, because of evolution and growth and change, decided they weren't going to do that anymore. Both wars were necessary for their times."

Overtime with Winfrey

A few extra comments from Oprah Winfrey

- **On her notoriety.** "Contrary to what everyone assumes about me, I'm really not a control freak. I like to hire someone who knows what they're doing so I don't (have) to do it. Then they come back to me and tell me it's done. That's how I like to operate."
- **On her director.** "What is exciting about him and why we love him is he is a truth seeker. He will not let any of his actors get away with a single breath that's a false moment. I can testify to that."

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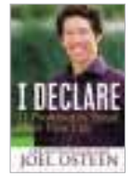
Last Week: 1 / Weeks on List: 1



2. I DECLARE Joel Osteen
Words have always had power. Joel Osteen's *I Declare*, now available in paperback, offers daily inspirations that harness the power of words. Shift the way you describe your life by declaring your blessings, and change will swiftly follow.
Last Week: 2 / Weeks on List: 1

This Week		Last Week	Weeks on List
3.	WAGING HEAVY PEACE Neil Young	3	2
4.	THE WHITE PRINCESS Philippa Gregory	4	3
★ 5.	WALLBANGER Alice Clayton	-	-
6.	MISTRESS James Patterson	6	1
★ 7.	ROSE HARBOR IN BLOOM Debbie Macomber	-	-
★ 8.	THE LAST KISS GOODBYE Karen Robards	-	-
9.	THE GUTS Roddy Doyle	9	1
10.	FIRST SIGHT Danielle Steel	10	5
★11.	THE INCONVENIENT INDIAN Thomas King	-	-
12.	THE ENGLISH GIRL Daniel Silva	12	5
13.	THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE Neil Gaiman	13	9
14.	THE CASUAL VACANCY J.K. Rowling	5	3
15.	INFERNO Dan Brown	7	12
16.	WILD Cheryl Strayed	16	20
17.	LET'S EXPLORE DIABETES WITH OWLS David Sedaris	17	17
18.	CRAZY RICH ASIANS Kevin Kwan	8	2
19.	I WEAR THE BLACK HAT Chuck Klosterman	19	3
20.	THE SECRET KEEPER Kate Morton	11	5

Combined Fiction and Non-Fiction Bestsellers for the week, ending August 19th
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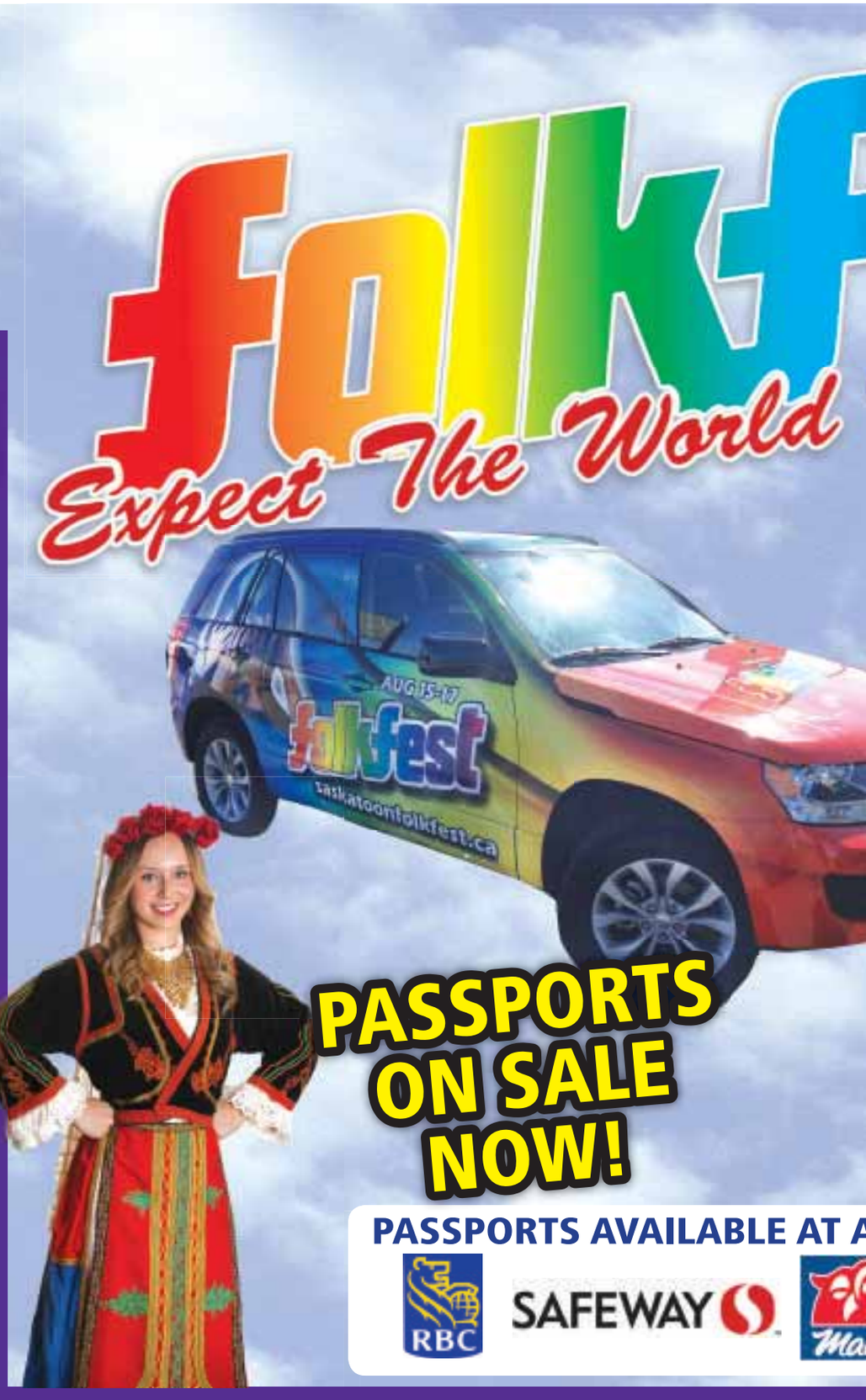

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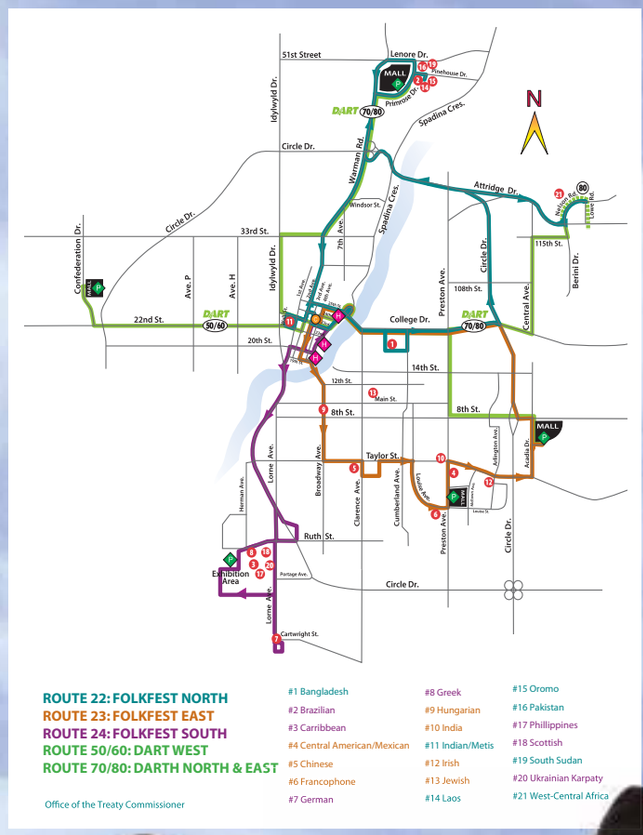

ROUTE 22: FOLKFEST NORTH
ROUTE 23: FOLKFEST EAST
ROUTE 24: FOLKFEST SOUTH
ROUTE 50/60: DART WEST
ROUTE 70/80: DARTH NORTH & EAST

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Alex Pettyfer ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Pettyfer and Keough appear to be back on despite last year's troubles

Despite calling off their engagement last year, relations seem to be warming again between Alex Pettyfer and Riley Keough, who were spotted "holding hands" at the premiere for Lee Daniels' The Butler in L.A. earlier this week, according to Us Weekly. "There was definitely warmth between Riley and Alex," a source says of the pair, who arrived together. "They were laughing together and smiling at each other." Keough was even reportedly sporting a ring on her left ring finger.

Angelina Jolie and Jennifer Aniston METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Once feuding stars avoid 11 hours of first class airline awkwardness

Angelina Jolie and Jennifer Aniston nearly had 11 hours of awkward silences as they were both booked in the first class section of a British Airways flight from L.A. to London Sunday, but Aniston reportedly moved her flight to the next day at the last minute, according to Us Weekly. "Whether it was because Angelina was on the Sunday flight, we don't really know, but she did change it," a source at the airline says. "The airline has VIP greeters who do chat about this sort of thing and may have informed each other of the (Aniston-Jolie) conflict, but nobody can say for sure."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Three big red Xs for Cowell after Electra breakup

While Lauren Silverman's reported pregnancy is making Simon Cowell's life more complicated, it's not the first time his involvement with Silverman has made waves in the X Factor boss' personal life.

Cowell's dalliances with Silverman reportedly put an end to his fledgling "hot and heavy" romance with Carmen Electra, according to E! News. "Carmen was at Simon's house in L.A. when she literally busted him with Lauren," a source says.

"Simon called her a friend, but there was nothing platonic about what was going on, if you know what I mean."

According to the source, Electra quickly called off her relations with Cowell. "There was no way she was going to stick around and be a third wheel," the source says.

Jennifer Garner

Garner joins privacy fight for celeb kids everywhere

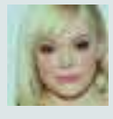
Jennifer Garner is joining Halle Berry in pushing for a California bill that would make it illegal for paparazzi to photograph their children. "I chose a public life. My three children are private citizens," Garner said while testifying before the California State Assembly Committee on Public Safety in support of the proposed anti-paparazzi bill, according to E! News. "I love my kids. They're beautiful and sweet and innocent, and I don't want a gang of shouting, arguing, law-breaking photographers who camp out everywhere we are all day, every day, to continue traumatizing my kids."

Stephenie Meyer

Meyer makes it clear that she's 'so over' Twilight

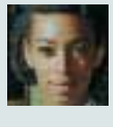
Twilight fans hoping that author Stephenie Meyer has more in store for them are going to have to keep waiting. "I get further away every day," she tells Variety. "I am so over it. For me, it's not a happy place to be." Meyer did concede, at least, that she could see herself giving some sort of update, but it might not be what fans are hoping for. "What I would probably do is three paragraphs on my blog saying which of the characters died," she says. "I'm interested in spending time in other worlds, like Middle-Earth."

Twitter



@rosemcgowan
Going through my contact list is like a quick trip through bad times

@SethMacFarlane
Oh cool, a new superhero movie. That is refreshing indeed.



@solangeknowles
Where does one dance at this hour in this big apple?

How to makeup for your masculine ensemble

If you're slipping into a tweed blazer, an oversized cardigan or a sleek women's tux this fall, the right beauty look is the perfect accessory to complete your menswear-inspired outfit.

The choice is yours to do a 180-degree turn and go with hyper-girlie, or stay strictly tomboy. Either can complement the more masculine clothing silhouettes.

Makeup with menswear is a little more important than other styles because with a neutral, muted palette of greys, blacks and browns, "you want to have a little life to your face, a little health and vigour," says Linda Wells, Allure magazine's editor-in-chief.

When suiting up in this fall trend, women have choices for their beauty look, she says. "Are you going to exaggerate the menswear look and play it up fully, or are you going to offset it with something feminine?" Wells says.

To soften menswear staples like grey flannel and houndstooth, which are so often fashioned into tailored items, add femininity by playing up the eyes or lips, experts advise, but not both at the same time so your features don't compete.

"You want to add feminine flair throughout the face if you can't have it on the body through the clothing," says Myiesha Sewell, a Sephora Pro makeup artist.

For a ladylike touch, Wells envisions soft hair with a little wave to it falling over the forehead along with a rich burgundy lipstick, or dark, smoky eyes featuring grey eye shadow, eyeliner and lots of mascara. "Who doesn't want to be a femme fatale?" she says of the "sexy androgyny" combination of feminine makeup and menswear.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Talk to the T: Say it loud, say it stylish with a graphic shirt

Stay on top of this fashion craze. Comics, creatures and credos are covering your fave back-to-school staple this fall

The T-shirt and graphic shirts are one of fashion's most basic items, but even with today's popular slim cuts, there's wiggle room to change up the style. That can be pretty important to the kids and teenagers who practically live in them but like to feel that they have something new when they go back to school.

This year's news comes in next-generation graphics, old-school characters and witty or powerful phrases.

"The best and most memorable graphic Ts throughout the years are the ones that capture the pulse of that time," says Tana Ward, senior vice-president and chief merchandising officer for American Eagle.

Because of the price — and frequency of wear — T-shirt trends also can move quickly because they aren't intended as long-term investment pieces.

"This is an affordable fashion change," says Seventeen fashion director Gina Kelly.

"Graphics are really, really big in the teenage market, and so is nostalgia," Kelly says.

"At 16, a girl understands irony, and that makes it cool to do some things. You also have T-shirt companies borrowing from the runways like Givenchy, and that's where you'll see space prints, high-fashion prints — and photo-realism prints are definitely big, too."

It's all about image and messaging, which this generation is very comfortable with, she says. "It's about affirmation on your chest. You are making your statement, whether you are making fun of designers with a 'Celine as Celfie' shirt or saying you loved Hello Kitty when you were in kindergarten."

The heavily logoed look also is passé, says AE's Ward. "Today, our customer is focused on projecting a personal identity. ... Our girl is also much more aware of the artistic side of graphic design and how it adds texture and interest to her outfit."

All she needs is a circle mini skirt and a pair of printed jeans (two other popular back-to-school items this year), and she is good to go, says Kelly.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zip! Boom! Pow!

Betsy Zanjani of Forever 21 points to the comics craze — taking note of the pop culture phenomenon that Comic-Con has become — as one of the strongest influence on T-shirts.

- Forever 21 has opened in-store Marvel Comics shops as the retailer noted "an almost cult following of old-school comic strips and vintage action figures," she says. "Things that are vintage and retro are really strong in both our male and female businesses."

Twitter

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Jeanne Beker
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TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Home at last: My new man! Fresh from Lunenburg #NS Thanks to Ransford Naugler.

Yesterday carpets, today hair colour! Going richer for fall thanks to TO's best colorist Marina Loo #RapunzelHair

Trends Report

- Are you a fan of the Netflix series Orange is the New Black? For this week's Trends Report, I decided to see if orange can be the new black — without it looking like a prison jumpsuit. Go online to see my orange-theme fashion finds and judge for yourself.

metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK

One-minute miracle

Hair saviour, time saver

Uniq One All in One Cleansing Balm $20, uniq-one.com

"Low-maintenance types will love that this hair balm can replace the cluster of hair products crowding your shower. Bonus: its keratin-enriched, sulfate-free formula means you can use it daily. The built-in cleanser and conditioner also work to volumize, smooth and strengthen strands, while preserving colour-treated hair. How efficient is that?"
Ashley Kowalewski, TheKit.ca

FOR MORE FASHION AND BEAUTY NEWS YOU CAN USE, CATCH UP WITH THE KIT AT THEKIT.CA

Ikea's upscale collection a winner

Affordable Stockholm design launched this week

DESIGN CENTRE
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Every three years mass market furnishings retailer, Ikea, introduces a much anticipated upscale collection of furnishing and home accessories.

This year, the coveted Stockholm Collection is introduced in limited quantities to the 325 stores in 40 countries around the world, bringing high-design at still very affordable prices.

With trends emerging like walnut wood furnishing, Kelly green and citrus yellow colours, it looks like this special collection will be on-trend for a long time.

Look for this special (and very well-priced) quality collection in the five million Ikea catalogues delivered this week to homes across Canada or in your local store. Here's a sneak peek and a few of my favourites:

Living room

Medium walnut wood tones and pops of yellow and green are on trend in the Stockholm Collection, introduced every three years at Ikea.

Rug

Take the three most favourite trend colours (grey, brown and green) and blend them together to incorporate past, current and future trend colours onto the floor.

Stockholm Striped Wool Rug, $299

Mirror

Illusions of depth give you varied perspective when looking through the angled walnut frame.

Stockholm Mirror 80, $99.

Dining room

Walnut wood is predicted to be the "next big wood" in home decor. The walnut wood used in the Stockholm Collection is actually Canadian walnut wood veneers.

Table

The big family table is back! Eight feet of Canadian walnut takes mid-century modern good looks into the future.

Stockholm Dining Table, $699.

Vase

Colourful blown glass to wake up your tables; three down the centre of a table would have real impact. Just add flowers!

Stockholm Vase 20, $49.99.

Chair

At the table or in a corner; solid & comfortable in this year's best colour (also available in natural walnut).

Stockholm Chair Green, $149.

Cleaning tips

The ink stain that never was

CHARLES THE BUTLER
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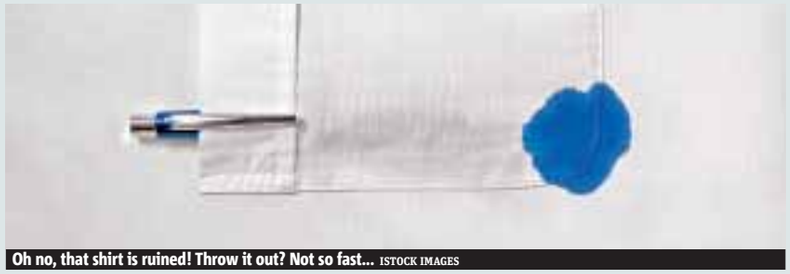
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

With kids getting ready to start their back to school shopping, it is just a matter of time before they get pen ink on their cotton T-shirts. So how do those of us who do their laundry get these stains out? Well it's actually rather simple; rubbing alcohol does the trick.

Lay the T-shirt on a flat surface, put several layers of folded paper towel under the T-shirt directly on the back side of the stain. Pour a small amount of rubbing alcohol into a dish and take a cotton swab and dip it into the rubbing alcohol. Slowly rub the stain in a circular motion. When the cotton gets all dirty, use a clean cotton swab and dip it again into the alcohol and continue treating the garment. Be patient and I promise it will come out very easily.



Oh no, that shirt is ruined! Throw it out? Not so fast... ISTOCK IMAGES

A smaller Turkish Ushak carpet, circa 1920s, layered on top of a larger sisal carpet, in a room designed by Lillian August.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/COURTESY TRADITIONAL HOME

Need a new rug? Don't sweep these tips under the carpet!

Carpets. Look for pattern, colour and even an emotional connection

The stunned crowd at Sotheby's burst into a rare round of applause when a museum-quality Persian carpet sold for a record-setting $33.76 million in June.

"It was extraordinary and wonderful and the carpet deserved it," said the auctioneer, Mary Jo Otsea, Sotheby's senior consultant for rugs and carpets. The hand-knotted, 17th century Clark Sickle-Leaf carpet, with a red ground and dark blue border, is "still dazzling to the eye," she said.

While few of us can fathom spending so much money on a showpiece, Oriental carpets, made in countries from Turkey to China, are available at various prices and have long been a popular part of home decor.

"Older carpets look great with everything," Otsea said. "They add great warmth by their colour and design. Older carpets have a wonderful patina and character that you can't capture in a new piece. Each one is different. You're not going to see the same thing when you go into everyone's house."

Doris Athineos, the arts and antiques editor for Traditional Home magazine, said the sale of the Clark Sickle-Leaf carpet may inspire people to look at the carpets with a new eye, mindful that an eight-figure sum was just shelled out for one of the finest examples.

"It gives them confidence to pull the trigger on something they may be eyeing, and confidence if they've inherited them from a great aunt or have them rolled up and stored. They might think, 'Hey maybe I should put that out,'" Athineos said.

Whether antiques or reproductions, the carpets work well in any kind of house or with any kind of decor, she said.

"I can't imagine where a beautiful antique carpet wouldn't work," Athineos said. "I have seen them in every kind of home, from minimalist to maximalist, where there's lot of decoration in the house. They add warmth to very pristine, minimalist spaces."

Try one in any room except the kitchen, Athineos recommends, especially the space where people spend the most time, perhaps the media room.

"That's the kind of wear those carpets can take," she said. "They're meant to be walked on."

With so many styles of design — florals, geometrics, abstracts — Otsea recommends browsing through as many carpets as possible to find out what you like.

A great carpet, she said, is the right combination of colour, design, technique and tradition.

"The more you look, the more you realize what you like," she said. "There's a whole world of patterns to choose from and colour palettes as well."

Athineos advised going to a reputable store, not one that's constantly promoting a going-out-of-business sale. Ask about the return policy, as some stores allow you to buy and try, and return it if it doesn't work with your decor. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Attachment

With 61,000 carpets to choose from at New York's ABC Home & Carpet, the company's vice-chairman, Graham Head, advises people to buy pieces they feel emotionally attached to, much as they would a painting.

- "It's got to speak to you, otherwise don't bother," he said.

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Holy easy to make guacamole!

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

There is nothing more delicious than homemade guacamole.

The key is finding a ripe avocado for the delicate texture and flavour.

Store unripe avocados in a paper bag, but don't refrigerate them.

1. Combine the avocado, cilantro, tomatoes, mayonnaise, jalapeño, garlic, lemon juice, and salt and pepper in a small bowl.

2. Serve with crackers, crudités or as a garnish.

Guac facts

- **Prep.** This recipe takes only 10 minutes to put together.
- **Make ahead.** Make a couple of hours before serving. Too early and the avocado will brown.
- **Nutrition information per serving (1 tbsp/15 ml).** 19 calories, 0.17 g protein, 0.9 g carbohydrates, 0.5 g fibre, 1.8 g total fat, 0.3 saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 45 mg sodium

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup mashed ripe avocado
- 2 tbsp chopped cilantro
- 1/3 cup finely diced tomatoes
- 1 tbsp light mayonnaise (50 % reduced)
- 1 tsp finely chopped jalapeno pepper (or 1/2 tsp/2 1/2 ml hot chili sauce)
- 1/2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 2 tsp lemon or lime juice
- pinch of salt and pepper

This recipe makes 2/3 cup (160 ml). COURTESY ROSE REISMAN

For your phone

Chefs Feed (iPhone; free)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
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Chefs will never forget a great meal prepared by someone else. This social network lets them share such discoveries, sorted by location and dish, for your taste buds to follow.

A top of the morning fiesta for your taste buds

1. Place the eggs in a small saucepan. Add enough cold water to cover by 1 inch. Bring the water just to a boil, then remove the saucepan from the heat, cover it, and set it aside for 10 minutes. After 10 minutes, transfer the eggs to a bowl of ice and water and let cool completely.

2. While the eggs are cooking, in a colander toss the tomatoes with a hefty pinch of salt and let drain for 10 minutes.

3. In a small bowl, combine the drained tomatoes with 1 teaspoon of the jalapenos, 2 teaspoons of the lime juice, 1 tablespoon of the onion and the cilantro. Toss well, then set aside.

4. Once the eggs have cooled, peel and halve them lengthwise. In a small bowl combine 6 of the yolks (discarding the remaining 2 or saving them for another use) with the avocado, mayonnaise, and the remaining 1 tablespoon of lime juice. Mash with a potato masher or fork until the mixture is smooth with a few lumps.

5. Stir in the remaining onion and jalapeno, add salt and pepper to taste. Mound the egg-avocado mixture into the egg whites and top each one with some of the salsa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.

Ingredients

- 8 large eggs
- 1/2 cup finely chopped tomato
- Kosher salt
- 1 tbsp plus 1 tsp minced jalapenos (discarding seeds and ribs, if desired), divided
- 1 tbsp plus 2 tsp lime juice, divided
- 3 tbsp minced white onion, divided
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 very ripe Haas avocado, peeled, pitted and coarsely chopped
- 1 tbsp low-fat mayonnaise
- Ground black pepper

Mexican-Style Stuffed Eggs

This recipe makes 16 stuffed egg halves MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lunch. Soft Turkey Tacos

1. In a large mixing bowl combine the shredded lettuce, carrot matchsticks, chopped cilantro, olive oil, lime juice, and salt and pepper to taste.

2. Lay out tortillas and divide mixture among tortillas; top with turkey breast strips. Fold in half and enjoy.

NEWS CANADA/ PILLER'S FINE FOODS

Ingredients

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) lettuce, shredded
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) carrots, cut into matchsticks
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) cilantro, finely chopped
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) extra virgin olive oil
- Juice of one lime
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 4 soft corn tortillas
- 5 slices Piller's Simply Free Roasted Turkey Breast, cut into strips

Model good reading habits for your children and continue reading to your kids even after they can read on their own. JACK HOLLINGSWORTH/PHOTODISC/THINKSTOCK

The early bookworm gets the grades

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

Not every child is a born reader, but there are ways to encourage your child to become a good reader.

Start by letting them read what they enjoy.

"Your child will be most engaged when you discover reading materials that interest them," said Halton (Ontario) District School Board elementary school teacher Kevin Foster. "It doesn't have to be standard reading material. Comic books, graphic novels and magazines all have great text features that tie in to the visuals for easier comprehension."

Head to the library or bookstore together and discover subjects they enjoy reading about, then be sure to have those books or reading materials on hand.

Be sure that the level is appropriate by previewing what they read.

Easier comprehension

"It doesn't have to be standard reading material. Comic books, graphic novels and magazines all have great text features that tie in to the visuals for easier comprehension."

Kevin Foster, Halton (Ontario) District School Board elementary school teacher

"If it's too difficult, kids get frustrated and disengage," Foster said.

He suggests the "five-finger rule" — if there are more than five words your child is struggling with on the page, then the book may be too difficult for them.

Think outside the printed page.

"Kids who are spending time on a computer are often getting in lots of reading online," Foster said. "There are all sorts of cool websites that will engage young readers."

You can also take it outside — read things together like menus, road signs and licence plates.

"Let kids experience reading in many different ways and settings."

Model good reading habits for your children. Read a lot yourself and continue reading to your kids even after they can read on their own.

"It's important to demonstrate great fluency, intonation and expression so they see that reading is more than decoding words," Foster said.

Remember to stop and ask questions.

"It's a great way to make deeper connections with their past experiences and to check their comprehension."

Finally, set aside some quiet time for reading to foster independence, as well as reading skills.

BACK TO SCHOOL BARGAINS

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A few notes about music

Studies have shown that music helps children perform better in math and their language development is enhanced. TOP PHOTO GROUP/THINKSTOCK

Music has been proven to boost school performance

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

Whether kids are listening, playing or singing, all experts agree that music is a valuable component of a child's education.

"Music helps children learn in so many ways," said Lena Palermo, a music teacher with the Toronto Catholic District School Board and director of Star Potential Studios, a children's musical theatre company. "Music has been proven to boost how kids perform in school."

Studies have shown that music has a powerful effect on a child's achievement — they perform better in math, their language development is enhanced, and they score higher on IQ tests.

Form of self-expression

"Music can be improvised, like art, so it can be a child's own form of self-expression and creativity."

Lena Palermo, a music teacher with the Toronto Catholic District School Board

Music has many other benefits for children.

"It gives kids a sense of identity, especially when they're part of a group," Palermo said. "There's team work involved in making the right sound, so music in this sense provides a sense of inclusion, helps build social skills, friendships and confidence. And when you focus on music, you leave everything else at the door. You're welcomed into that different space, so it's a great stress reliever."

The breathing techniques you learn when you sing or play an instrument are also ideal for relieving stress and enhancing posture.

Creatively, music is a perfect way for kids to express themselves.

"Music can be improvised, like art, so it can be a child's own form of self-expression and creativity," Palermo said.

Learning to play an instrument also teaches children about patience.

"Our kids are so used to immediate gratification. Playing an instrument requires a lot of repetition and work, time and practice, so patience and persistence are natural outcomes of learning music."

What can parents do to foster a love of music and encourage kids to become more musical?

"Students learn some musical basics in school; once they know how to read notes, it's easier for them to learn an instrument," Palermo said.

There are community programs to teach kids the basics of instruments like piano and guitar.

The popularity of TV singing competitions and the TV show Glee has also promoted an interest in singing, choirs and glee clubs.

Call a local music school or check online for opportunities in your neighbourhood for musical theatre groups, classes and camps.

Building friendships

It's not always easy to make new friends, more so if your child is moving to a new school. When should parents worry about how their children are managing socially at school?

Kathy Lynn, a parenting expert, speaker and author of Parenting Today, suggests that a good strategy when switching schools or helping kids forge new friendships is to get them involved in activities, sports or clubs that they are interested in at school.

"It's a great way for kids to break in and find friends who are like-minded and have similar interests."

Initially, assume children are managing well unless there are warning signs.

"If your child isn't talking about other kids, seems to always be alone or is having trouble sleeping, then have a talk," Lynn said.

One way to help your child is role playing. Show your child how to approach another child or group and ask if it's OK to join in.

"Kids don't pick up the social cues when someone wants to join in, so it's important to teach your child to seek out friendships — and perhaps notice others who are looking to make new friends."

It's also essential to welcome kids into your home.

"Make your house the place where other kids want to come and play, have snacks, make noise and a mess," Lynn said.

Finally, don't worry if your child doesn't have a big group of friends.

"Some kids are happy with one or two close friends, and it's important to honour their personalities and let them be who they are."

MICHELLE WILLIAMS

Help kids forge new friendships by getting them involved in activities, sports or clubs that they are interested in at school. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Optimize your child's school learning experience

The countdown is on ... only a few short weeks until the first school bell.

What can parents do to make sure that kids are prepared to learn and get the most out of school?

"For starters, ensure that your children are happy and excited about learning and about the new school year," said Cassandra Alviani-Alvarez, a principal with the Toronto District School Board.

"Go online and check out the curriculum. See what's coming up and start a dialogue with your kids about what they'll be learning. Focus on how great it will be to be back at school."

An important component to keeping kids happy is creating a comfortable and relaxed environment at home.

"A peaceful house is very important. A lot of friction in the household impedes kids' learning, so try and keep things calm and caring."

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

It's also important for parents to make school and education a top priority in the household.

"There are lots of ways a parent can make this happen," Alviani-Alvarez said. "Set a special space aside in the house to do homework, and an inspired learning area for kids to express their creative side with music, games, book, art materials and more."

Another good idea is extending their learning at home.

"If the class is learning about plants, do some planting at home and watch things grow. If they're studying the weather, follow weather forecasts and learn about it together."

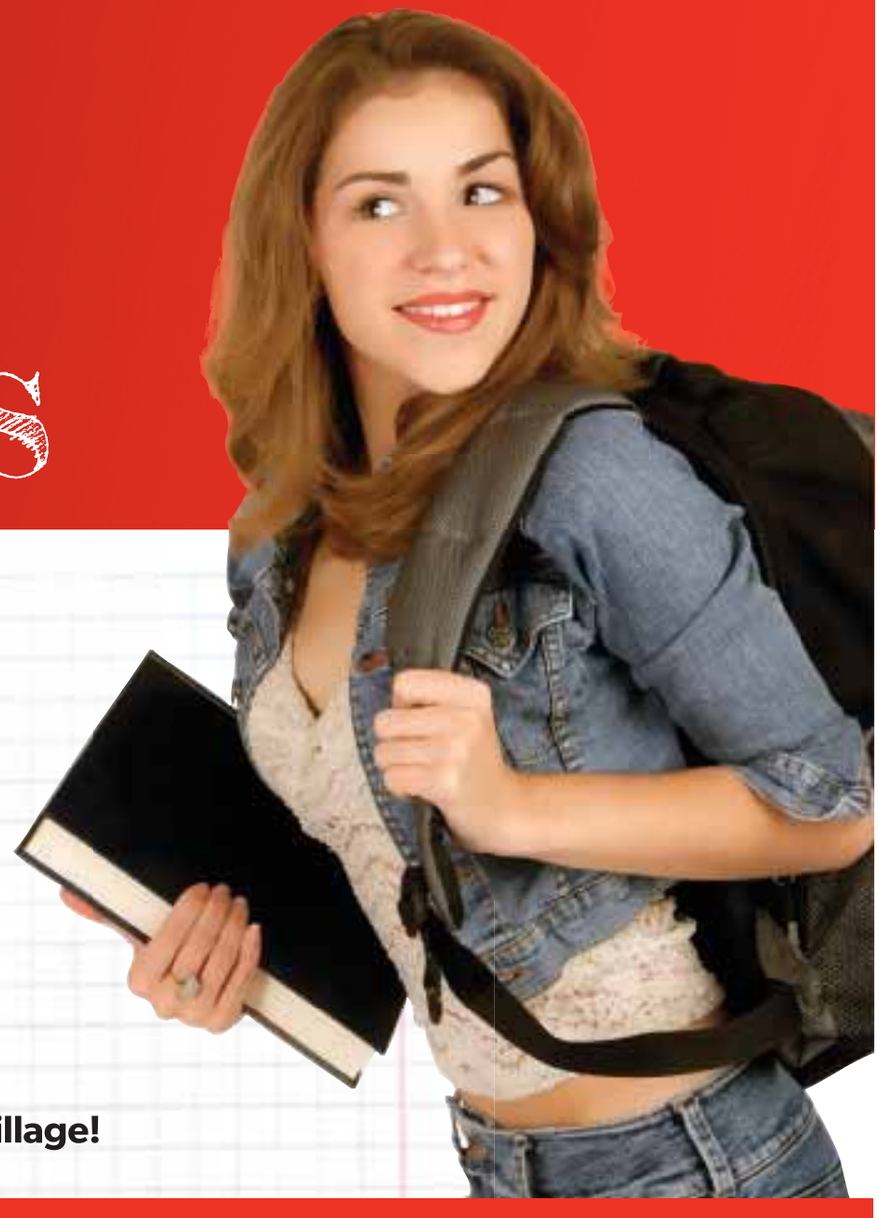
Studies show that kids do better in school when their parents are actively involved.

"Introduce yourself to your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year," Alviani-Alvarez said. "Kids feel better knowing that their parents and teacher are partners in learning. Encourage your child to ask questions of the teacher, and help your child become more confident and succeed in the classroom by enlisting the help of the teacher if your child is shy, timid or lacks self-assurance.

"Also, volunteer periodically in the classroom or go along on field trips. It helps build a child's confidence and reinforces your commitment to his or her education."

MICHELLE WILLIAMS

BACK TO SCHOOL BARGAINS



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Huskies prepare for training camp on Friday

Experience. Coming off a 5-3 record last year, U of S looks to emerge from the summer as an even stronger team for the 2013 season

JACOB MORGAN
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Head coach Brian Towriss addresses members of the media at the press conference to announce the kick off to training camp, alongside players from the team. The Huskies will play host to the UBC Thunderbirds in non-conference action Aug. 23 at Griffiths Stadium. JACOB MORGAN/METRO

Despite having a young lineup in 2012, the University of Saskatchewan Huskies still managed to make it to the CanWest semi-finals before being taken out by the Regina Rams.

As the Huskies prepare to head into training camp on Friday, head coach Brian Towriss believes they have the potential to do much better this time around.

"We're way more experienced than we were going into the season last year," said Towriss.

With a deeper pool of running backs to draw from and improvements having been made on offence, Towriss said he is confident the Huskies will be able to meet their goals.

"Even at 5-3, that's not up to where our expectations are," he said. "We want to get back and host some home playoff games and take a run at the Canada West championship this year."

Starting quarterback Drew Burko is now entering his second season in the position, and he said drawing from what he has learned should work to his advantage.

"Last year it was a bit unknown how I was going to do, how I was going to fit in and how our offence was really going to work," he said. "This year we have that starting point and we can work from there."

Burko was forced to sit out two games in 2012 due to a wrist injury, but he said he has made a full recovery.

"It's been a long off season, so my wrist is 100 per cent. I haven't noticed any residual effects from it or anything, should be coming to camp ready to go," he said.

Davis has two doubles in Blue Jays win

Toronto Blue Jays left fielder Kevin Pillar makes a diving catch of a ball hit by Boston Red Sox left fielder Jonny Gomes in Toronto on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rajai Davis hit two doubles and scored the winning run in the 10th inning as the Toronto Blue Jays snapped a three-game slide with a 4-3 win over the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday.

Edwin Encarnacion hit two doubles and scored a run for the Blue Jays (55-65), while starter Esmil Rogers (3-7) pitched six innings with six strikeouts, five hits and an earned run. Reliever Brett Cecil ruined Rogers' chance at a win though, blowing Toronto's 3-1 lead in the ninth inning.

Brad Lincoln pitched an inning and a third in relief to earn the win for Toronto.

Designated hitter David Ortiz hit a home run for Boston (72-50). Jon Lester (10-7) gave up three runs — two earned — and fanned three hitters over six and a third innings of work. Brandon Workman (3-2) pitched three innings for the Red Sox and took the loss.

Davis drew cheers when he led off the bottom of the 10th with his second double of the game. He then advanced to third base on Jose Bautista's groundout to short.

Workman then intentionally walked Encarnacion to put runners on the corners. With Brett Lawrie at the plate, Encarnacion stole second base.

Lawrie then hit a sharp single off the glove of Boston shortstop Stephen Drew to drive home Davis and end the game.

Davis opened the scoring in the third inning when he hit a sharp single to Lester, where the pitcher fumbled the ball. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bonifacio traded

Earlier Wednesday, the Blue Jays traded Emilio Bonifacio to the Kansas City Royals for a player to be named later or cash.

- The 28-year-old Bonifacio, who the Jays acquired last off-season in a trade with the Florida Marlins, hit .218 as a utility player this season.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you start your day early and finish it late, you will get through ten tasks to every one your rivals manage to complete. Your momentum will keep you going through tomorrow and into the weekend.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You seem to be torn between options, unable to decide which is the best route. Sit quietly for a few minutes and let your intuition guide you. Deep down you already know what the answer is.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Ignore those who say you are going to fail, they don't know what they are talking about. Equally likely is that they fear your efforts will bring you huge success, making them look bad. Good — go for it!

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You don't have to face a tough situation alone today. You have friends all around you. All you have to do is reach out to them and they will gladly assist.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
With Mercury in your sign linked to genius planet Uranus, you will come up with ideas that could change the world. Even if you don't want to go that far, you can certainly change your life for the better.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The next 24 hours may be a bit too noisy for your tastes but you will get through it OK. Instead of trying to avoid loud people why not, for a short time, get loud yourself.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do what makes you feel good, rather than what makes others feel good. You have every right to pursue your own happiness and prosperity. Anyone who tells you otherwise is a fool.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Changes in your career or social life may make it difficult to plan ahead but that is not a bad thing. Today's Mercury-Uranus link will throw up an unexpected opportunity. Grab it with both hands.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Sometimes it's OK to get angry. In fact, if someone annoys or provokes you today you must let them know about it in up-front terms. Some people, sadly, are simply too dim to learn any other way.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The best cure for doubt is action, so throw yourself at what you have to do today and forget everything else, at least for a while. You will find that what you have been worrying about is of no concern.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may look cool and calm to the world at large but deep down you are actually a sensitive person and you must not try to deny it. Let your passion drive your actions.

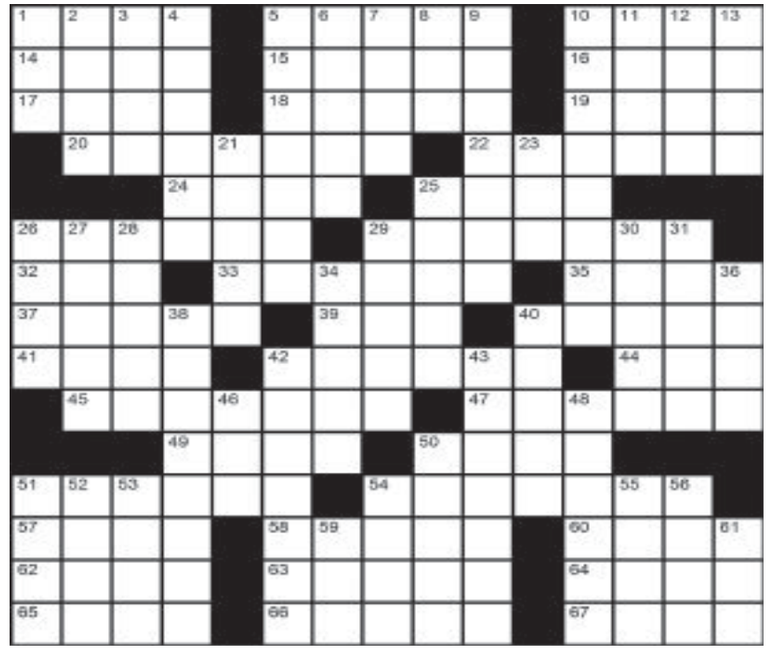
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Open your mind to new possibilities, especially where money and related matters are concerned. Your instincts will guide you in the right direction.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



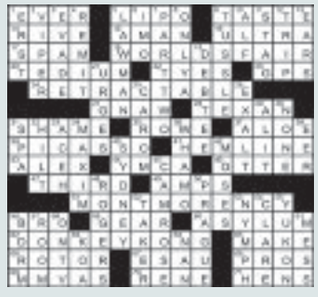
Across

1. Alphabet sequence
5. Military doc
10. Person, place or thing
14. __ mortals
15. Andrew Lloyd Webber musical
16. Competent
17. Regrettably
18. "__ '__ In": Wings song that goes "Someone's knockin' at the door."
19. Canadian hardware store
20. "Danny's Song" by Loggins and __
22. Belovedly win over
24. Superlative suffix
25. Move like a river
26. Art stands
29. Hybrid pastries currently a craze
32. Understood
33. Cowboy's prop
35. Dubai, United __ Emirates
37. Canadian actor Paul
39. Prince Valiant's son
40. Talk in a monotone
41. Colonnade of ancient Greek architecture
42. Machu __ (Inca archaeological site)
44. Stage actress Ms. Hagen
45. Toronto-born actress Ms. Watson whose name is Western-inspired
47. 2009 James Cameron movie
49. Vegetable variety
50. Dish of the day, __ du jour
51. Keep your cool: 2 wds.
54. __ cheese sandwich
57. __ the crack of dawn: 2 wds.
58. Detached in manner
60. Land amount
62. Ms. Remini
63. #10-Down's expression: "Doot __ Doot Doo..."
64. Certain carpet
65. Mr. Affleck's
66. County in England
67. "No Particular Place __ __" by Chuck Berry

Down

1. ABC's early li'l daytime show
2. Leadership position
3. "Dies __": Latin hymn meaning 'Day of Wrath'
4. Brit singer, __ J
5. "Canadian Idol" Season 3 winner Ms. O'Neil
6. Function
7. Ms. Von Teese
8. 'Meteor' suffix
9. Realm of Arthurian†legend
10. Interviewer, __ the Human Serviette
11. Woodwind
12. Forearm bone
13. Within earshot
21. Markets
23. Quebec turndown
25. Swiss currency
26. Scrambled servings
27. Major artery
28. "Cheers" seat
29. Approximately, in dates
30. Speckled fish
31. New†Mexico's capital, __ Fe
34. Broadway baritone John (b.1917 - d.2005)
36. Grizzly or Polar
38. Days of rest
40. Village in Saskatchewan
42. Fabricated beforehand
43. Nova Scotia's capital
46. Sushi bar's 'Unagi'
48. Etta James song Beyonce covered: 2 wds.
50. Worker, informally
51. Baby tulip
52. Sword sort
53. Scott of "Hawaii Five-0"
54. Mucky matters
55. Bon __ Provincial Park, ON
56. Pull along
59. 'L' in L.A.
61. Identity part

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

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metro

It's unfair to give a giant American corporation special treatment.

I can tell you personally that this is an incredibly competitive industry. One company does something and the others scramble to beat it. That's good, fair competition. But now, the Canadian Government is allowing a giant U.S. cellphone company to buy up small Canadian operators that Canadian cellphone companies like mine aren't allowed to buy. Since we can't bid, they'll likely even get a huge discount on the price, effectively at the Canadian taxpayers' expense. But it gets worse. They get to piggyback on the infrastructure we built — and they didn't contribute a cent. That's not good, fair competition. You know, we teach our kids to play fair. That's about as Canadian as it gets. So why is our government giving a giant U.S. corporation special treatment? That's not fair.

Ottawa needs to close the loopholes.

To find out more, go to FairForCanada.ca

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Sweetheart deals for U.S. giants are a bad call for you.